(c) and (d) In addition to the OMCs who are marketing LPG in the country, the Government have also allowed Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), Gail (India) Limited (GAIL) and Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) to market indigenously produced LPG subject to certain terms and conditions. The matter is under review with a view to opertionalizing the mechanism.

Additional gas to Maharashtra

*398. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has been requesting the Union Government for supply of additional natural gas/LNG for Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the arrangements made by the Union Government for allocation of additional gas for Maharashtra fill the time the Dahej-Uran gas pipeline is completed?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Maharashtra have been requesting the Central Government from time to time for additional supply of gas/LNG for the power and fertilizer sectors, and other industries in Maharashtra. In this connection, the Chief Minister of Maharashtra has also requested 8 Million Standard Cubic Metres per day (MMSCMD) of additional gas for Maharashtra State Electricity Board's power project at Uran and NTPC's power projects at Kawas and Gandhar in Gujarat, for supply of electricity from these units to Maharashtra.

(c) At present, against an estimated gas demand of demand of around 150 MMSCMD in the country, the availability is only around 92 MMSCMD. The steps taken to increase gas availability include efforts to augment domestic gas availability under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), imports of liquefied natural gas (LNG) and initiatives to import gas through transnational pipelines. The Dahej-Uran pipeline does not increase the availability of the gas but provides flexibility to transport some of the available supplies from Gujarat to Maharashtra. It is proposed to access additional quantities of LNG from global sources for bringing to Hazira and Dabhol LNG terminals for regassification and transport to Maharashtra when the Dahej-Uran pipeline gets completed and the Dabhol LNG terminal gets completed.